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APPENDIX B.

[Vide page 309 supra]

*Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the Finance Committee,
1923-24, dated 3rd December 1923.*

P R E S E N T :

The Hon'ble Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER, K.C.S.I., I.C.S. (Chairman).
M.R.Ry. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR Avargal.
JANAB MUHAMMAD YAHYA ALI SAHIB Bahadur.
M.R.Ry. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR Avargal.
Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU, *Kt.*
Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN.
C. NICHOLSON, Esq.
R. W. DAVIES, Esq., I.C.S.

I—SCHEMES.

The following schemes were taken into consideration :—

(1) The creation of a permanent drafting section in the Law Department at a cost of Rs. 21,341 per annum.

The proposal is recommended for acceptance.

(2) The appointment of a whole-time dental surgeon for the General Hospital, Madras.

The proposal is recommended for acceptance.

(3) The purchase of the Feroke and Kallayi bridges from the South Indian Railway Company at a cost of Rs. 1.50 lakhs.

The Committee are of the opinion that the bridges should be purchased and that the charge should be met from provincial funds.

(4) The remission of rent for the old and new extensions of the Lady Ampthill Nurses' Institute and South Indian Nursing Association.

The Committee are unable to recommend acceptance of the proposal.

(5) The opening of a sub-treasury at Tiruvalur, Tanjore district, at a cost of Rs. 1,230 per annum and a non-recurring initial expenditure of Rs. 900.

The scheme is recommended for acceptance.

(6) The revision of pay of plant collectors at the Agricultural College by converting the 30 posts which are at present on the scale of Rs. 20—1—35 to 15 posts on Rs. 25—1—30 and 15 posts on Rs. 30—1—40.

The proposal is put forward in connexion with the abolition of the lower subordinate service in the Agricultural Department in which three posts are to be abolished immediately.

The proposal is recommended for acceptance.

(7) The payment of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay, of a contribution at the rate of Rs. 200 per annum for each Madras Government scholar admitted to the Institute.

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I remember rightly, that he was not going to increase the rates of assessment either in that fasli or even in the next fasli and that within that time he would consider my representations as far favourably as he could. With that assurance, I withdrew my Resolution. Two years passed by and then the Government were again trying to impose these additional rates. Then myself and my hon. Friend Mr. Siva Rao, each tabled a Resolution in this House to the effect that the proposed enhancement should not be carried out. By ballot, my hon. Colleague's Resolution came first and it was discussed in the Council. The wording of that Resolution was

'that these enhanced rates should not be given effect to.'

"The period for which these enhancements should not be given effect to was not specified and that was made one of the reasons by the hon. the Revenue Member to reject the Resolution. The discussion continued in a very sympathetic spirit, and I gratefully acknowledge the sympathy expressed by almost every hon. Member of the House then, many of whom I am glad to see, have been returned to this House. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, said that perhaps it might be as well that we considered the matter a little more closely before we accepted the proposition then before the House *in toto*. He suggested as a *via media* that for one year these rates need not be brought into operation and that in the meanwhile some conclusion might be arrived at. Between the time we last met under the old regime and now, the Government have issued an order definitely telling us what rates should be increased and what not. Practically they confirm the proposals made by the special settlement officer with only one single exception which, in fact, does not amount to much at all. They exempt from the enhanced rates a low assessed class of land, viz., land bearing six annas assessment."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"May I ask to what Government Order the hon. Member has referred?"

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I am referring to the Government Order mentioned in my Resolution, viz., G.O. No. 1332, Revenue, dated 21st July 1922."

The hon. Mr. A. R. KNAPP:—"I may perhaps simplify discussion if I state that that order was not passed after the debate referred to by the hon. Mover."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"I beg the hon. Member's pardon. I mean that the Government were initiating measures to bring the enhanced rates into operation without giving the Council the opportunity it wanted to pronounce an opinion on it. It may be within the knowledge of the hon. the Home Member, who is now in charge of settlement, that immediately after the rejection of the Resolution of the hon. Member, Mr. Siva Rao, I tabled another Resolution rectifying the defects noticed by the hon. the Revenue Member, wherein I mentioned that these rates should not be given effect to for a specified period of 30 years. That Resolution was admitted by the hon. the President and it was to come up for discussion before this Council, but in the meanwhile, the Government had issued orders to their subordinates in the district to prepare the *adangals* and other books so as to give effect to the proposals I have referred to above. That, I think, was hardly fair to the declared wishes of this House."

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The Committee are not prepared to concede the advisability of increasing the staff in the current year and of moving a supplementary demand therefor. They therefore suggest that the question should be postponed for reconsideration by the present Minister for Development.

(8) Purchase of the Indian Law Reports, Rangoon series—Rs. 680.

The law reports may be purchased, the cost thereof being met by reappropriation and not by supplementary grant.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
3rd December 1923.

C. G. TODHUNTER.

